

# Providing **Sanctuary & Healing**

They're refugees from roadside zoos, biomedical research labs, and captive hunting operations. They're the orphaned young of backyard wildlife, the castoffs of the exotic pet trade, and the birds whose migratory journeys were cut short by accident or illness. They include former racehorses, pet ponies, and wild mustangs who once roamed free across Western lands. Whatever the species, whatever the story, these animals have one thing in common: They're among the thousands who received hands-on care from The HSUS in 2009.

The largest animal protection organization in the nation, The HSUS has the power to strike at the root causes of animal suffering and create public policy changes with the potential to affect billions. But for animals in immediate need, we also operate five sanctuaries and rehabilitation centers across the country, where dedicated staff and volunteers nurse the wounded, tend the motherless, and

restore dignity to the mistreated. Common or rare, native or exotic, all are worthy of the best care we can provide.

Their tales of rescue and redemption inspire our ongoing efforts in legislative arenas, corporate boardrooms, and the court of public opinion. And year by year, we chip away at the deliberate and inadvertent cruelties that bring so many animals to our doors.

# DUCHESS Sanctuary

Douglas County, Oregon **2009 Impact:** Provided a 1,120-acre refuge and rehabilitative care for nearly 200 homeless horses



**Bonnie and Mathilda** once lived in Canadian facilities that collect urine from pregnant horses for pharmaceutical companies. For six months of the year, they were trapped in dark, cramped stalls, while their foals were taken away to join the production line or sent to slaughter.

At Duchess Sanctuary, the two old draft mares now graze peacefully alongside other victims of the estrogen replacement drug industry, orphaned mustangs, and horses rescued from shipment to foreign slaughterhouses.

"Bonnie is a big friendly girl who enjoys attention from people she approves of," says ranch manager Jennifer Kunz. "Mathilda is most well known for her enormous belly."

Some horses will live out their lives here; for others, it's a lifesaving way station. Abandoned along an isolated road in Oregon, 18-month-old Fiona and 2-year-old Martina were emaciated and terrified when they arrived at the sanctuary. With gentle handling and a high-calorie diet, the animals gained weight, grew shiny coats, and learned to trust people. In February 2009, the two young mares became the first Duchess horses to be adopted into a loving home.



A photograph of a gannet in flight, splashing in the ocean. The bird's wings are fully extended, showing the underside of the primary feathers. The water is splashing around its feet, and the background is a cloudy sky.

# CAPE Wildlife Center

Barnstable, Massachusetts

**2009 Impact:** Provided emergency care to 1,700 injured, ill, and orphaned wild animals

**Gannets spend most of their lives at sea**, so when this one was found wandering on land after a storm separated him from his flock, local animal control officers brought him to The HSUS's Cape Wildlife Center. Because of the facility's location along an important migratory route, birds are its most frequent guests, followed by mammals, reptiles, and amphibians.

"This was a young bird, probably less than a year old, that didn't know its way around. It was starving," says Dr. Roberto Aguilar, the center's veterinarian.

Center staff and volunteers fed the bird and made sure he preened enough to waterproof his feathers. When he was strong enough, the gannet was released on a nearby beach. But two days later, he was hanging out near the home of a Cape Cod resident, waiting to be fed. This prompted a second stay at the wildlife center, where staff spent three weeks weaning him away from humans. "Finally, he was snapping at us," Aguilar says.

When hundreds of gannets gathered near Provincetown, volunteers and staff rushed there and set their patient free. He quickly joined the seafaring flock—a wild bird once more.



# Cleveland Amory BLACK BEAUTY RANCH

Murchison, Texas **2009 Impact:** Provided a permanent 1,250-acre sanctuary to 1,300 animals



**Rescuing animals** from a Texas puppy mill in July, an HSUS team found 544 dogs, 15 cats, and ... one goat, who was so neglected her infected udder dragged on the ground. Millie was taken to the Cleveland Amory Black Beauty Ranch, where with proper care and attention, she left behind the pain of her former life.

"She's quite a character," says ranch director Diane Miller. "She follows us around the yard. She wants to come in my house."

In 2009, Millie and 118 other incoming animals joined fellow refugees from cruelty cases, slaughterhouses, research laboratories, captive hunting operations, circuses, roadside zoos, the exotic pet trade, and public lands. The ranch also completed several renovation projects. Four African tortoises, rescued from the pet trade, settled into a new space with luscious grasses for munching, a heated barn, and a new drinking water pool. Feral pigs, many of them orphaned by hunters, now explore and root to their hearts' content in a five-acre wooded enclosure. And staff began work on the Doris Day Horse Rescue and Adoption Center, which will serve as a model facility for the care and rehoming of equines.

"No other single facility opens its arms to such a broad array of animals in desperate need of sanctuary and compassion," says Miller.



**It's a common scene** during baby season: orphaned animals like this young squirrel slurping Pedialyte round the clock in the nursery at The HSUS's SPCA Wildlife Care Center. When they're strong enough, they move to an outdoor enclosure and eat solid food. Eventually, if all goes well, they return to the wild.

"We want them to have a great life," says center executive director Sherry Schlueter.

In 2009, the center received up to 85 baby animals each day during nesting season. Its rescue vehicles traveled throughout South Florida, saving animals in dire straits and releasing those who were ready for independence.

While the center focuses on native wild animals, it also provides a haven and adoption services for exotic and domestic species who have nowhere else to go. "We are determined to accept species others cannot," Schlueter says.

This open-door policy is a life-saver for unwanted pet guinea pigs, hamsters, hedgehogs, potbellied pigs, parrots, and others who pass through the center each year. And everyone pitches in to meet the needs of the varied group. In 2009, volunteers built a luxurious coop, where "every chicken in the county is going to be lined up at our doorstep, bags packed, waiting to get in," jokes one of the helpers, Jerry Madden.



## SPCA Wildlife Care Center

Fort Lauderdale, Florida

**2009 Impact:** Treated 12,179 injured, orphaned, and abandoned animals



# THE FUND FOR ANIMALS

## Wildlife Center

Ramona, California

**2009 Impact:** Cared for 344 sick, injured, and orphaned native wild animals, as well as 92 permanent residents



**Hannah P. Motamus's first dip** in her new swimming pool made a big splash among employees at The Fund for Animals Wildlife Center in 2009.

The 375-pound pygmy hippo was once a neglected backyard pet with skin so damaged that veterinarians thought she'd have to be euthanized. The center's caregivers were able to help Hannah heal, building a mud pond she could wallow in, but they knew she needed a better habitat. In 2009, Hannah took ownership of a 13,000-square-foot enclosure with shade trees and a 25-foot long pool.

"She stepped in and immediately went down, deeper and deeper, and then—for the first time in her life—she disappeared underwater," says Chuck Traisi, manager of the center, which is operated in partnership with The HSUS. "She kept rolling with her pink belly visible like a water ballerina. All of us swore she had a smile on her face."

More than 90 animals like Hannah who can't be returned to the wild have found permanent sanctuary at the center. But the staff's main focus is healing native animals and then setting them free. In 2009, these included a bumper crop of 22 orphaned coyote pups, who stayed in a recently built 4,000-square-foot enclosure.